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Aug 31st 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I'm a graduate student in data science applied to biomedical research (aka bioinformatics). The technologies we develop at institutions at UCSF are those that can save lives - a few in the immediate future, and potentially millions down the line.

My ISP, Sonic, has been a tremendous support through my studies. The symmetric gigabit fiber connection means that I can work with HUGE datasets remotely at ANY time of day. This means if an emergent case comes across my workload I can assist IMMEDIATELY. No service outages, no slowdowns, and importantly for a student (and most people) NO SURPRISE FEES.

Prior to having them as an option I was reliant on Comcast Xfinity and ATT... two companies that have been accepting federal money for the expansion of broadband but instead spend that elsewhere and have not improved their networks at ALL where I live (San Francisco). Both providers had constant slowdowns and outages (Xfinity especially) to the point where I needed the BOTH Xfinity Cable and the ATT DSL connections split through a load balancer to ensure I had no outages... and even then sometimes both connections would drop simultaneously and my data analysis/backups would crash and burn. And to add insult to injury, both companies would nickel and dime me with fees/necessitate useless services (like cable) that I would have to pay for. And land lines were a no go - way too expensive. Bloated, slow, and awful to deal with.

When Sonic began to offer DSL, I dropped ATT's DSL and then had no outages. Ever. But the network was slow. Then Sonic upgraded to fiber, so I dropped Comcast and never looked back.

Since switching to a Sonic Fiber (did I mention they're a SMALL and COMPETITIVE ISP yet?) I have had ZERO issues AND a free land line just for the heck of it. They strive to make their network as good as it possibly can be while also prioritizing their customers' satisfaction. That's what the free market does, right? Competition drives innovation. Isn't that what built America? And Silicon Valley?

It's ridiculous to me that big telecom can get away with ripping off the American public while keeping our networks in worse shape than they did in 2010. Sonic has brought my connection into

the modern age and eliminated the need for load balancing and constant phone calls to customer service. It just works, and big telecom could learn a thing or two for them. I will steadfastly support ISPs like Sonic no matter what - they have enabled me to quit worrying about my damned connection and instead let me focus on doing the work that really matters to me and my biomedical research whenever the need arises. Thank you. Please let local broadband thrive - it's clearly critical to America's modernization.

Angelo Pelonero